

The Heartbeat of the Nebraska Federation

Issue Number One
Summer 2015

Alice Stevens
Editor

Notes from the President

I want to thank all those members who attended our annual convention in Columbus, NE. Thank you for electing me your president. It was great to see familiar people from all over the State. Thank you must also go to those who have supported the Nebraska Federation over the past two years. Your confidence in me is humbling.

As stated two years ago, I would keep on top of the National office of National Active and Retired Employees association's efforts to illuminate the State Federations. I thought that in Florida we defeated that notion.

After attending the National Presidents meeting in Reno, NV earlier this month I see that the proposal is not dead. One would think that our National President Richard Thissen, *and* our National Secretary, Jon Dowie are not backing off.

It appeared on the floor Wednesday of the Presidents meeting that the chair of the National Steering Committee is convinced in order to save money and increase our National purpose to be a strong organization as legislative advocacy Advocates for active and retired federal employees.

I also saw the control Jon Dowie has on the steering committee to look at a positive strengthening the NARFE organization for the future. He seems to suggest we need only 5 federation Regional Vice Presidents and that State Federations need to be replaced by Congressional District Leaders to carry out Legislative advocacy at the federal and state levels.

In retrospect over the last four years, the Nebraska Federation has not had a strong Legislative Advocacy Advisory Committee. We need a strong Legislative Advocacy advisory Committee at the State level. This means that Chapters have to become stronger participants in the Nebraska Federation and Strengthen our legislative advocacy voice at the National and State level.

This means that we need strong programs at the chapter level as well as the State level. This also means we need to have strong membership drive at the chapter and federation

level. Under the direction of Vice President Pam Swanson, to identify those chapters that do not have a membership chairs. We need an inventory of membership chairs to represent chapters on the federation Membership Advisory committee. We need more members.

To help strengthen our program, please send representatives to the College of NARFE at Marina Inn, South Sioux City, NE August 24-26, 2015. Members will be registering beginning on Sunday evening and continuing Monday up to 3:30 p.m. We begin the official conference at 4:00 p.m. on Monday. The hotel registration deadline is August 4, 2015, telephone: 1-402-494-4000. Address 385 E. 4th Street, South Sioux City, NE 68776. The room rate will be \$92 plus taxes. (Includes breakfast)

Hope to see you there in August.

Ronald W. Moore
Nebraska Federation President

Notes from the Region V Vice President

I am delighted to be asked to add my comments to the Nebraska Federation newsletter.

First and foremost, I hope all of you are having a very nice summer. I would wish for a little cooler temperatures and more moisture but then I guess I would have to move somewhere out of Kansas.

July and August are busy months for NARFE.

Your Federation President, Ronald Moore, and I just returned from Reno, NV, having spent the week of July 6th through 10th attending the National Federation Presidents and National Legislative Board joint meeting. Most of the time was directed to the Strategic Planning for the Future of NARFE. I am not going to write a lot about that meeting as I am certain Ron wishes to report to you from his standpoint and to gather information from you.

August provides the longest congressional recess and, with it, the best opportunity to meet with your legislators in both formal and informal settings. You may make an

appointment at your nearest local congressional office or visit one of their local town hall meetings or coffee stops.

It is very important to all active and retired Federal employees that we get to know our Congressmen and “Thank” them if they have voted for our issues; or ask them to consider our issues and please vote to support us. With the recent Legislative win that we had on the Budget vote; and, with current threats to the TSP G fund and the breach of security at OPM (Office of Personnel Management) – we must build and strengthen our relationships with our Congressmen.

Membership has hit an all-time low. At the end of May, we have a total membership of 230,355. We have lost 7,197 members in 2015 alone in a time when people should be clamoring to gain membership. Please, if you know someone who is eligible to join NARFE recruit them now. The first year membership is \$40 for a very good cause.

I do hope to see you at the College of NARFE Knowledge which will be held in South Sioux City, Nebraska, August 24 through the 26. The opening session begins at 4:00 p.m. on the 24th and the closing session will end at 12:00 Noon on the 26th. Speakers this year include: National President Richard Thissen; National Legislative Director, Jessica Klement; Attorney for Elderly, Susan Johnson-Drenth; Region V Alzheimer’s Chair, Janice Neuschafer; Region V PAC Chair, Harold Weed; Region V Committeeman for Strategic Planning, Bruce Coleman; and, Retirement Specialist Elizabeth Inman. Attached is a brochure giving details of the conference. I would love to see a big turnout from Nebraska.

Carol R. Ek, Region V Vice President

Invitation & Registration Form

This is your invitation and registration form to attend the 12th Biennial College of NARFE Knowledge.

The registration fee is \$75 which will include the Monday evening buffet dinner; Tuesday noon luncheon; and Tuesday evening dinner. The registration deadline is August 15th, 2015. Late registration will be \$75.

The hotel registration deadline is August 4, 2015, telephone: 1-402-494-4000. Address 385 E. 4th Street, South Sioux City, NE 68776. The room rate will be \$92 plus taxes. (Includes breakfast)

(Please submit a separate registration form for each person attending.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Chapter _____ # _____
Location: _____

Member (____) Guest (____) # of Times Attending CONK

Please indicate meal choices below (circle one for each meal) except Monday which will be the same for everyone. Monday dinner is the New York Deli Buffet

Tuesday Lunch: (1) Prime Rib Sandwich with steak fries and pickle spear (served open face)

(2) Grilled Chicken Sandwich topped with Swiss cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato and red onion. Served with steak fries and pickle spear.

(3) Kahill's Cranberry Spinach Salad with Chicken Breast Salad (Sliced chicken breast on fresh spinach, pears, raisins, spicy pecans, Gorgonzola, Applewood smoked bacon and cranberry vinaigrette dressing.

Tuesday Dinner: (1) Chicken Picatta (sautéed lemon-caper chicken breast, mushrooms, tomatoes, artichoke and parmesan cheese.)

(2) Applewood Smoked Bacon Wrapped Montreal Pork Loin

(3) Pan Seared Orange Roughy

Tuesday Evening Dinner Dessert: (1) New York Cheesecake served with fresh strawberries (2) Caramel Apple Cheesecake topped with caramel and apple crumbles.
Tuesday Dinner served with tossed salad; potato; Chef's choice of vegetable; rolls and butter. All meals are served with coffee or tea.

Mail form and payment made payable to College of NARFE in care of Carol R. Ek, 907 Sycamore Pl, McPherson, KS 67460-5804. Any questions may be directed to 620-241-1131 and 620-504-2202.